

Wm Burnham 40

4

K
HUMPHRY SMITH'S LETTER to his SON:

MY SON,

THE alone and only Son of me after the Flesh (for I never had any other.) For thee thy faithful Father's Care hath been, even unto this Day of my great Weakness: Notwithstanding I was called of the Lord from thee when thou wast young, and from all things else that were ever so dear unto me, to publish the Gospel of God, and to call Sinners to Repentance; in the which the Lord hath blessed me. And if it should be the Will of God, that I now finish my Testimony in this Prison; yet have I so order'd and taken care for thee, my Child (and that according to the good Will of God) that thou mayst spend thy Days in his Fear, and walk uprightly in his Sight; and learn to labour honestly so with thy Hands, as may be of good Report among Men, and comfortable to thyself.

And as for the Time thou art to be with thy Master from thy first going to him; I did intend, and shall appoint, some Friend to see the same performed; that thy Master, and the Schoolmaster, be paid and satisfied for one whole Year's Diet and Teaching (as likewise what I am to give with thee as an Apprentice) and the like; that so, thou being young and little, it might be easy to thee. And thenceforward thou art to be bound an Apprentice for Eight Years (unless thy Master will in Love 'bate two or three Months of it.) And I do hereby appoint and desire George Weatherly and Robert Ludgater to see to the Drawing of the Indentures, and to be as Friends on thy Part.

And now altho', as I said before, thou art my only Son; yet if thou refusest the Instructions of thy Father, and shalt reject the Counsel of God; and then not be obedient nor faithful to thy Master, nor walk in God's holy Fear, nor keep in the Way of Truth; then let the Law of Men take hold of thy Body, let the Judgment of Friends pass upon thee, let the Law of God seize upon thy Conscience, and let Trouble, and Fear, and Poverty, and Wretchedness, and Shame overtake thee; inasmuch as thou dishonourest thy Father, and the Lord, and his precious Truth.

But if thou do that which is just and right in the Sight of God and Men, and be subject to Friends, and obey thy Master and Dame; walking well-pleasing towards all; and live in the pure Fear of God, and let thy Heart be upright before him, behaving thyself in Humility and Love towards all, and that for Christ the Truth's sake, who laid down his Life for thee, and all; and if thou continue in Well-doing, and so increase in the Way of Righteousness; then the Lord, that hath preserved me, will bless thee; yea and thou shalt be blest, and the God of Heaven will have Mercy on thee. And so mayst thou spend thy Days in the holy Fear of the God of Heaven, and come at last to rest with him for ever. Unto whom, and to the Word of his Grace, I commit thee for evermore. And to the same God of my Life I commit my own Body, Soul, and Spirit.

And as for coming to see me, think not on that: For many Friends have come several Scores of Miles, to whom I have been scarce able to speak two Words, though the Lord has given me so much Strength at present to write this unto thee. The which, if the Lord gather me to the eternal Rest of my Fathers, then mayst thou take this as my last Farewell. And the Blessing of God be with thee for ever.

From Winchester Prison, the 23d of the
Second Month, 1663.

Humphry Smith.

5 AP 58

4152. h. 5
K Friends Sowing.

FORMS of the Affirmation and Declaration of Fidelity, directed to be made by the People called QUAKERS, by Act of Parliament of the Eighth of GEORGE the First, Chap. 6. instead of the old Forms, which for divers Years were very uneasy to many Friends, and therefore by the said Act altered or repealed: And Friends are desired to be careful to use the following Forms only when called upon to make an Affirmation or Declaration, viz.

Form of the present Affirmation.

I A. B. do solemnly, sincerely and truly Declare and Affirm, &c.

Form of the present Declaration of Fidelity.

I A. B. do solemnly and sincerely Promise and Declare, That I will be True and Faithful to and do solemnly, sincerely, and truly Profess, Testify, and Declare, that I do from my Heart Abhor, Detest, and Renounce, as Impious and Heretical, that wicked Doctrine and Position, That, &c.